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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/628,693	07/28/2000	Julien Haroche	03495.0193	3389
22852	7590	12/19/2003	EXAMINER	
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 1300 I STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20005				PAK, YONG D
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		1652		

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/628,693	HAROCHE ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Yong D Pak	1652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5,8,9 and 26-32 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1,2,5 and 32 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 3-4, 8-9, 26 and 29 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 27,28,30 and 31 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed on October 29, 2003, canceling claims 6-7 and 23-25, has been entered.

Claims 1-5, 8-9 and 26-32 are pending.

The indicated allowability of claims 3-4, 8-9 and 26-31 is withdrawn in view of the rejection under 112, 1st paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 3-4, 8-9, 26 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The claims are drawn to a DNA molecule that hybridizes to the DNA molecule encoding SEQ ID NO:1 with no limitations to the function of the encoded polypeptides. Therefore, this claim is drawn to a large variable genus of polynucleotides encoding polypeptides having unknown activity or inactive variants. The specification does not describe the function of all the polypeptide sequences derived or modified from SEQ ID NO:1 and therefore, many functionally unrelated polynucleotides are encompassed

within the scope of these claims. Therefore, applicants fail to describe representative species by identifying characteristics or functional characteristics other than hybridizing to DNA molecules encoding SEQ ID NO:1.

Given this lack of description of the representative species encompassed by the genus of the claims, the specification fails to sufficiently describe the claimed invention in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize that applicants were in possession of the inventions of claims 3-4, 8-9, 26 and 29.

Claim 3-4, 8-9, 26 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for polynucleotides encoding polynucleotide having unknown function. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required are summarized in In re Wands 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2nd 1400 (Fed. Cir. 1988). They include (1) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (2) the amount of direction or guidance presented, (3) the presence or absence of working examples, (4) the nature of the invention, (5) the state of the prior art, (6) the relative skill of those in the art, (7) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

The claims are drawn to polynucleotides encoding polypeptides having unknown function. The claims broadly encompass not only vatE genes, but any polynucleotides

hybridizing to polynucleotides encoding SEQ ID NO:1. Therefore, the breadth of these claims is much larger than the scope enabled by the specification.

The specification does teach how to make variants of polynucleotides encoding SEQ ID NO:1. However, the function of a polypeptide can not be predicted from its structure and the specification does not teach how to use polypeptides with unknown function. The quantity of experimentation in this area is extremely large since there is significant variability in the activity of the polynucleotides in the claims. It would require significant study to identify the actual function of the encoded polypeptides and identifying a use for the polypeptide would be an inventive, unpredictable and difficult undertaking. This would require years of inventive effort, with each of the many intervening steps, upon effective reduction to practice, not providing any guarantee of success in the succeeding steps.

The art is extremely unpredictable with regard to protein function in the absence of realizable information regarding its activity. Even very similar proteins may have every different functions. In the current case, where no specific information is known regarding the function, it is entirely unpredictable what function and activity will be found for the protein. The prior art does not resolve this ambiguity, since no prior art activity is identified for the encoded polypeptides.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill would require guidance in order to use polynucleotides encoding polypeptides having unknown function in a manner reasonable correlated with the scope of the claims. Without such guidance, the experimentation left to those skilled in the art is undue.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2, 5 and 32 are allowed.

Claims 27-28 and 30-31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Pak whose telephone number is 703-308-9363. The examiner can normally be reached 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapu Achutamurthy can be reached on 703-308-3804. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9307 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Yong D. Pak
Patent Examiner

December 9, 2003



PONNATHAPU ACHUTAMURTHY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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